

MICHIGAN CHAPTERS

apri

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE

May 2, 2012

BATTLE CREEK

To : Michiganders

DETROIT

FLINT

GRAND RAPIDS

HURON VALLEY

JACKSON

KALAMAZOO

LANSING

MUSKEEGON

SAGINAW

The A. Philip Randolph Institute would like to take a position on the Voter Suppression Legislation being presented today. There are bills that have been drafted under the guise of 'protecting voter fraud', but there has been no evidence of fraud in any testimony. There has, however, been fear in legislator's hearts since the 2008 Election Cycle. Record numbers of voters stood in lines for many hours to participate in the political process by exercising their right to vote. In order to make sure that new voters are discouraged, elder voters are disenfranchised and hard working families are discriminated against, voter suppression legislation has been drafted.

Nationwide, it has been predicted that 5 million voters will be prevented from voting if these bills are enacted. In Michigan the photo identification bill alone would affect over 35,000 citizens. As we move forward, it seems that things are to be made easier, not more difficult. Placing road blocks in the paths of those wanting to be civically engaged, is without warrant. Elected officials win with votes. Shouldn't they want to encourage as many voters as possible to make it to the polls? Instead they continue to focus on suppression measures. Other states have adopted free identification to those needing it for voting purposes. I propose that this legislation not be adopted until there is free identification for every voter is available.

I encourage you to contact your elected officials and ask a simple question. What does Michigan have to gain by suppressing the vote? This is a democracy, and we should be able to enjoy the democratic process instead of being harmed by it.

See you at the polls,



Anita R. Dawson, President

State of Michigan

A. Philip Randolph Institute

Anita R. Dawson, State President

2221 Carol Way • Lansing, MI 48911 • 517.775.3303 • Anitadawson602@gmail.com

